

Message Text

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PAGE 01 WELLIN 02261 180117Z

70

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DPW-01 IO-14 AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /126 W

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P R 172130Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8392

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL AUCKLAND

C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 2261

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, NZ, US VS

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER WHO ALLEGEDLY KILLED AMERICANS
IN VIETNAM REFUSES TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF

REF WELLINGTON 2239

1. SECRETARY OF DEFENCE JOHN ROBERTSON TOLD EMBASSY
JULY 17 THAT NEW ZEALAND SOLDIER CLAIMING TO HAVE KILLED

AMERICANS IN VIETNAM HAS SO FAR DECLINED TO IDENTIFY HIMSELF
OR GIVE OTHER DETAILS. EARLIER IN DAY MINISTER OF DEFENCE
A J FRAULKNER HAD BEEN IN THREE-WAY TELEPHONE/RADIO HOOK-UP
WITH TALKBACK SHOW MODERATOR GORDON B IDEN AND ALLEGED KILLER,
DURING WHICH FAULKNER SAID NO IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION
COULD BE OFFERED AND ALLEGED KILLER DECLINED TO GIVE HIS
NAME OR ANY OTHER DETAILS. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT A
CALLER FROM AUSTRALIA CLAIMING TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN
VIETNAM INCIDENT WAS PERPETRATING A HOAX.

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PAGE 02 WELLIN 02261 180117Z

2. ROBERTSON STATED THAT WHOLE INCIDENT WAS ALMOST

TOO FANTASTIC TO BE BELIEVED, ALTHOUGH GNZ WACD
PROCEEDING ON BASIS THAT IT MIGHT BE TRUE. NEW
ZEALAND OFFICERS WHO HAD SERVED IN VIETNAM WERE
LISTENING CAREFULLY TO RADIO TAPES TO SEE IF SOMETHING
MIGHT BE GLEANED THAT WOULD BE HELPFUL IN AN INVESTIGATION.
GNZ LEGAL AUTHORITIES ARE ALSO STUDYING INCIDENT TO SEE
WHAT MIGHT BE SAID ABOUT REDUCED LIABILITY IF ALLEGED
KILLER DID COME FORTH WITH DETAILS. MEANWHILE, HOWEVER,
GNZ MUST RECOGNIZE THAT CHANCES OF GETTING TO BOTTOM OF
CASE ARE PRACTICALLY NIL UNLESS FURTHER SPECIFIC DETAILS
CAN BE OBTAINED.
SHELDEN

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005